

Common words to learn when using an Intravenous Device

Aseptic technique	A method used to keep an area free from germs.
Catheter or end cap	A device that caps the end of the catheter.
Clamp	The device used to close off the catheter so air and fluids cannot enter or leak out. There are different types of clamps. They may be rolled, pinched or squeezed to close.
Contamination	Introduction of germs into or onto sterile objects.
Drip chamber	Part of the IV tubing where the rate of the flow of drops can be counted.
Final flush solution	The solution that is left in the catheter when the catheter is not hooked up. It is usually Heparin or Normal Saline.
Home PN	Home Parenteral Nutrition (Home PN) is when you receive most or all of your nutritional needs through a catheter.
Hub	The end of the catheter where the IV tubing, injection cap or catheter cap is attached.
Infection	Invasion of the body by germs such as bacteria or a virus.
Infusion	Fluid flowing into the body, usually through an IV or special device such as a PORT or PICC.
Intravenous	An intravenous is a thin, plastic tube called a catheter that is put into a vein to give fluids. Often called an IV.

Luer lok	A locking device that may be on the end of IV tubing, injection cap, catheter cap or syringe. A twisting motion is used when working with a luer lok.
Lumen	Passage within the catheter.
Occluded	The catheter or IV tubing is blocked.
PICC	PICC stands for peripherally inserted central catheter. The catheter is a long thin tube and may stay in your arm for several weeks or months.
Port	A catheter that is placed completely under the skin.
Positive pressure	A way of flushing the catheter so that the clamp on the tubing is slowly closed just as the syringe empties.
Priming	Preparing IV lines by filling with fluids and removing the air.
Sharps	Needles.
Spike	The sharp tip of the IV tubing that is inserted into the IV medication container or IV bags.
Sterile	Free of germs or microorganisms.
Tunneled catheter	A catheter that is tunneled under the skin. The catheter goes from outside the chest wall (the part you see) under the skin and into the large vein near your heart.
Turbulent flush	A special way of flushing the catheter using the stop/start method.